

**BLACKWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1919.

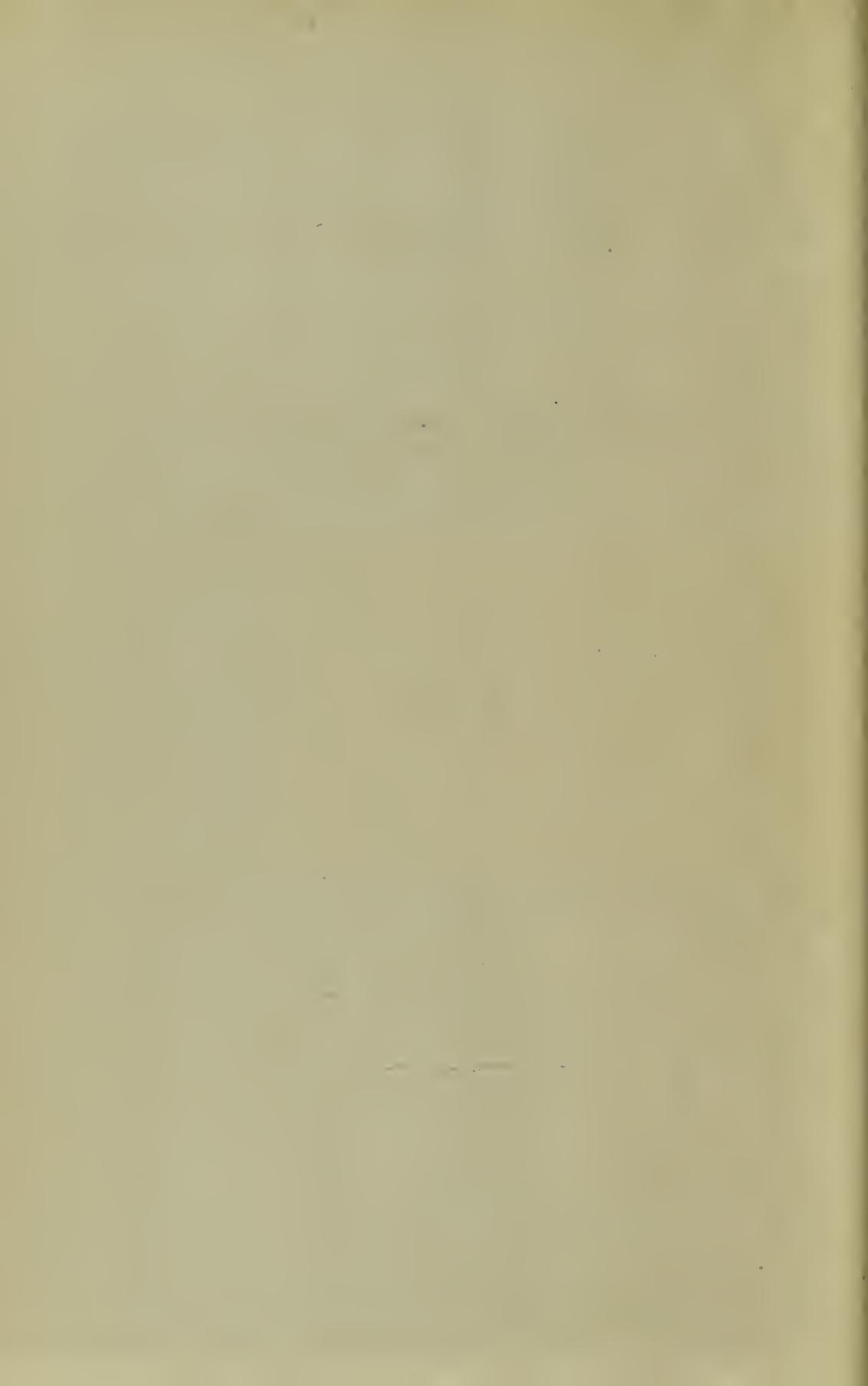
BY

JOHN O. LITTLEWOOD, D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

MANSFIELD :

W. & J. LINNEY, LTD., WEST GATE,
1920.



Rural District Council of Blackwell.

Chairman	...	Mr. J. T. TODD.
Vice-Chairman	...	Mr. A. E. HESKETH.
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Ault Hucknall	...	Mr. G. WHARTON.
Blackwell	...	Mr. J. T. TODD.
„	...	Mr. F. F. BOLSTRIDGE.
Glapwell	...	Mr. T. THOMPSON.
Pinxton	...	Mr. T. FREEMAN.
Pleasley	...	Mr. J. WARNER.
Scarcliffe	...	Mr. J. PEACH.
Shirebrook	...	Mr. T. MADDOCK.
„	...	Mr. T. SKINNER.
South Normanton	...	Mr. F. WALKER.
„	...	Mr. W. C. O. SAMPSON.
Tibshelf	...	Mr. A. E. HESKETH.
„	...	Mr. T. A. LAWTON.
Upper Langwith	...	Rev. E. H. MULLINS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

BLACKWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

The time has now arrived for submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on the General Sanitary Condition of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1919, this being the twenty-eighth such report which I have had the honour of preparing since I have acted as your Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN O. LITTLEWOOD.

Physical Features of the District.

A description of some of the chief physical features of a district must necessarily include some reference to its geological structure. Such an account may be an advantage to some, and cannot fail to interest all the members of the Council. To the geologist and antiquarian the county of Derby abounds in many treasures, but it is not to such treasures that I now wish specially to draw your attention.

The portion of the county in which you are more particularly interested is placed in the east, and forms a part of the Pennine Chain, or back-bone of England. There are no hills of any great height, but the surface presents a somewhat irregular contour, very different from that found in the north-west, where high hills, deep ravines, and extensive dales are characteristic features. This great central or Pennine anti-cline throws off on the west the coal measures of Lancashire and North Staffordshire, and on the east the great coalfields of Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

For convenience of description the District may be divided into two parts, viz.: north and south. The southern part embraces the parishes of Pinxton, South Normanton, Blackwell, and Tibshelf, which are situated on the upper coal measures.

The depth at which coal is found varies in different parts. At Blackwell it appears on the surface, whilst in some of the adjacent parishes it is only found at considerable depths. As water-bearing strata, the upper coal measures are not satisfactory, the subsoil being too loose and shaly, and thus readily allowing of the free percolation of water. It is found that the

range of rise and fall in some of the superficial wells exceeds many feet. The soil is heavy and loamy, and contains a large amount of moisture.

Passing on to the northern part of the District, which includes the parishes of Ault Hucknall, Glapwell, Scarcliffe, Langwith, and Pleasley (including Shirebrook), we meet with the magnesian limestone as well as the coal measures. Portions of Ault Hucknall, Glapwell, and Scarcliffe are over-lapped by the former. It is quite obvious where one formation ends and the other begins: the line of demarcation is well marked by the escarpment which runs north and south, and is particularly well-defined by the ridge which runs through Hardwick Park and skirts the hamlet of Palterton. Along the base of this escarpment numerous springs abound, and it is from these sources that Ault Hucknall (Doe Lea) derives its water supply.

The surface overlying the magnesian limestone differs from that of the coal measures in being more undulating in character. The subsoil is firmer, and the range of rise and fall in the wells is considerably less. The soil is drier, more sandy, and lighter in composition.

TABLE I.

Blackwell Rural District.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1919 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.			Transferable Deaths.			Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.		Rate.	Number.		Rate.	Number.		of Non-residents registered in the District.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.		Rate.
		Number.	Rate.		Number.			Number.				10	11	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	49	155	115·4	550	13·4	
1914	40973	...	1343	32·7	507	12·3	6	10	155	115·4	550	13·4		
1915	39540	...	1270	32·1	435	11·0	11	54	130	102·3	478	12·1		
1916	38590	...	1199	28·5	446	11·5	7	53	128	106·7	499	12·9		
1917	38624	...	1154	26·8	381	9·8	4	79	106	91·8	460	11·9		
1918	37158	...	1132	27·1	550	14·8	3	72	125	110·4	622	16·7		
1919	43018	...	1044	24·2	402	9·3	5	57	111	106·3	454	10·5		

Total population at all ages, 43,018 at Census of 1911.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 7068·231.

TABLE II.
Blackwell Rural District.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1919.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.										Total Cases Notified in each Locality, (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.																				
	At all Ages.		Under 1		1 to 5		5 to 15.		15 to 25.		25 to 45		45 to 65		65 & upwards		Shirebrook		Normanton		Jubbsheath		Plaistow		Hinckley		Langwith		Glattpwell		Total Cases removed to Hospital.
Small pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera(c) Plague(p)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	125	1	15	96	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	17	6	2	29	2	12	3	...	1	92	...	...
Erysipelas	18	1	13	34	1	8	6	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	19	1	8	6	12	7	2	3	1	1	1	59	...		
Scarlet fever.....	60	1	1	19	1	8	6	12	7	2	3	1	1	1	59	...	
Malaria	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	80	4	23	51	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	2	28	1	34	2	4	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	...	
Poliomyelitis.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...
Neonaturn .....	...	3	21	22	35	2	1	47	7	5	4	3	4	9	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	84	...	1	4	7	2	2	...	8	1	2	...	2	1	2	...	16	7	12	16	16	13	6	2	1	2	2	...			
Other forms of Tuberculosis	16	1	3	7	7	12	24	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6				
Pneumonia	67	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	462	13	61	216	60	70	33	9	141	35	33	22	102	25	72	16	11	5	154	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.—Langwith Isolation Hospital; Morton Isolation Hospital.

TABLE III.

Blackwell Rural District.

**Deaths registered during the Calendar Year 1919 classified
by age and causes.**

TABLE IV.

Blackwell Rural District.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1919.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Certified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Causes Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	1	1	2	4	3	1	...	...	...	8
Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	6	5	5	1	...	17
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	1	8	6	5	...	20
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	5	11	1	2	...	19
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlaying ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Atelectasis ...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Malformations ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Premature Birth ...	14	3	1	1	19	1	...	...	...	20
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	2	2	2	1	7	2	1	...	...	10
Other causes ...	1	...	...	...	1	1	4	...	1	7
Total ...	23	7	5	2	37	19	32	13	10	111

Nett Births in | legitimate 1001
the year | illegitimate 43Nett Deaths in | legitimate infants 103
the year | illegitimate infants 8

General Vital Statistics of the District.

The District, which comprises 21,239 acres, has an estimated population of 40,322, with an approximate estimation of 1.8 per person per acre.

It will not be until after the next Census has been taken that we shall be able to know the actual population, especially as there are many men still on active service in various parts of the world. The population, as given above, is an estimated return of the inhabitants of the contributory parishes in the Council's District.

	Census, 1901.	Census, 1911.	Present time.
Population ...	28,735	39,306	43,018
Inhabited Houses ...	5,514	7,570	8,143

The method adopted for arriving at the population of the District is based on the actual number of inhabited houses known to exist for food control purposes, allowing 5.25 persons per house.

The character of the population has remained unchanged for quite a number of years, the residential element tending, if anything, to diminish. For several years there has been a marked development in coal mining, some of the collieries having very large outputs.

Agriculture forms the only other important industry, and this has had a tendency to become more of the tenant-proprietorship character. In all newly-erected houses where water is available, water closets are installed.

The hospitals of Nottingham, Sheffield, Chesterfield, and Mansfield are all available and are extensively used, particularly for accident cases.

Rateable Value ...	...	...	£164,099	15	0
Assessable Value ...	...	...	£156,444	12	6

TABLE SHOWING ACREAGE, INHABITED HOUSES, POPULATION, BIRTHS AND
DEATHS OF EACH PARISH OF THE DISTRICT,

For the Year ended December 31st, 1919.

Parishes.	Acres.	Inhabited Houses	Persons per house.	Population.	Births	Deaths	Deaths under 1 year.
Ault Hucknall	4429	398	5.25	2089	43	23	4
Blackwell	1749	991	5.25	5203	98	49	6
Glapwell	774	20	5.25	105	0	3	0
Pinxton	1253	1093	5.25	5738	129	45	15
Pleasley	1788	451	5.25	2368	67	17	5
Scarscliffe	3954	647	5.25	3396	66	25	3
Shirebrook	1505	2148	5.25	11277	323	139	43
South Normanton ...	1934	1423	5.25	7471	204	102	27
Tibshelf	2371	807	5.25	4237	88	37	6
Upper Langwith ...	1492	216	5.25	1134	26	14	2
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8194	5.25	43018	1044	454	111	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE CONTRIBUTORY PARISHES COMPRISED IN THE
BLACKWELL RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1919.

Parishes.	Estimated Population.	Rates per 1000 living.						Infantile Mortality per 100
		Birth.	Death.	Zymotic	Diarrhea.	Tubercular	Other Respiratory	
South Normanton	7471	27.3	13.6	2.4	0.6	0.5	0.0	3.3 0.4
Pinxton.	5738	20.2	7.8	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.0	1.9 0.5
Tibshelf.	4237	20.7	8.7	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.2	2.8 0.9
Blackwell	5203	18.9	9.4	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7 0.2
Shirebrook	11277	28.6	12.3	3.0	0.9	1.0	0.6	2.6 0.3
Pleasley.	2368	28.8	7.2	2.1	1.2	0.8	0.0	0.8 0.4
Searchfie	3396	19.4	7.3	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.3	2.6 0.3
Ault Hucknall.	2039	21.1	10.1	0.9	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.9 0.5
Langwith	1134	22.9	10.2	6.1	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.9 0.0
Glapwell	105	.0.0	28.5	19.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5 0.0

Births and Birth-Rate.

The births registered during the year numbered 1,044, as against 1,132 for 1918, and were equal to an annual rate of 24.2 per 1,000 of population.

The rate for England and Wales was 19.0 per 1,000 of population.

Deaths and Death-Rate.

The number of deaths recorded by registration as belonging to the District was 402, as against 550 for the previous year, and the rate was 9.3 per 1,000 of population. The rate for 1918 was 14.8. As far as my information serves me, the rate for the year is the lowest ever recorded.

The rate for England and Wales was 9.59.

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 111 deaths occurred in children under one year of age, being equal to an annual rate of 106.3 per 1,000 births.

The rate for England and Wales was 89.

The rate was 4.1 lower than the one recorded for the year previous, and the lowest but one for the last five years.

It is well to bear in mind that social conditions play an important part in the welfare of infant life. The nearer urban conditions are approached the higher infant mortality prevails. Quite a number of the parishes in the District may claim the urban characteristics.

The establishment of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres throughout the country is, in my opinion, having a most beneficial influence on infant life. It is only necessary to attend these institutions, even in a very casual way, to see how the mothers vie with each other in securing a higher standard of development in their children.

There are three forms of disease which stand out conspicuously in swelling infant mortality—Pneumonia (including Bronchitis), Diarrhoea, and Premature Birth. They are all, to a large extent, preventible. It is usually when mothers are young and inexperienced that children die prematurely, but it is not an uncommon thing to find a girl of 20 the mother of three children.

Measles and Whooping Cough in themselves are maladies somewhat trivial in character, but owing to the ready way in which the lungs become affected, infants, unless they are well nursed, and properly protected from adverse surroundings, very quickly fall victims to pneumonia and other lung complications. I have not referred to the vast number of babies who perish annually prior to birth, some by false means, and others through carelessness on the part of the mother in not denying herself some of the attractions of modern life, such as late hours and dissipated habits.

Not only is it necessary for the future welfare of this country that more children should be born, but it is equally important that they should be healthy. Health assists in giving immunity from many ailments, particularly those associated with early life.

Notification of Births Act.

The administration of this Act passed out of the hands of the District Council, and was taken over by the County Council in October, but as three-fourths of the work was done under the jurisdiction of your Council, I make no apology for introducing a statement showing what was actually accomplished in the year:—

1.	Number of Births registered—	1001
	(a) Legitimate	
	(b) Illegitimate	43
2.	Number of Births Notified—	
	(a) Live Births	1040
	(b) Still Births	37
3.	Number of Births Notified by	
	(a) Midwives	933
	(b) Doctors	107
4.	Number of Visits paid to Expectant Mothers—	
	(a) First Visits	18
	(b) Final Visits	19
5.	Number of Visits to Infants under 1 year—	
	(a) First Visits	1084
	(b) Total Visits	2467
6.	Number of Visits to Children, 1 to 5 years—	
	Total Visits	479

Water Supply.

The District generally is well provided with excellent water.

Blackwell and South Normanton derive their supplies from the Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban Council and Mansfield Corporation Water Committees. This water is obtained from the pebble beds of the Bunter sandstone, and is of excellent quality, as shown by chemical analysis.

The Sutton-in-Ashfield Authority were unable to maintain an average supply, and this had the effect of reducing the height of the water in the Huthwaite Reservoir. It was only in the higher levels that the water failed, and this was got over by delivering supplies by means of water carts.

If the source of supply should become permanently affected, the Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban Council may probably deem it advisable to increase the flow at the well by driving in further headings.

Tibshelf has its water from the Mansfield Corporation's mains. The supply is well maintained, and of splendid quality.

Pinxton obtains its water from a double source, viz., part from the Basford Rural District Council's mains and the other from what is locally spoken of as an Old Man's Working. The Basford water undoubtedly is of good quality, and the other supply, on chemical analysis, is found to be quite satisfactory.

Shirebrook derives its supply from a deep well near the colliery, in the magnesian limestone. The purity of the water, as shown by chemical analysis, is indisputable, but, unfortunately, it is exceptionally hard, varying from 30 to 54 degrees.

A softening plant has been established, but owing to some defects in the management it has not been giving very satisfactory results. The Council has been given the assurance that no effort shall be wanting on behalf of the Colliery Company to improve matters. Monthly analyses are made by the Medical Officer of Health, and results reported to the meetings of the Council.

Scarcliffe is supplied from the Bolsover Water Company.

Pleasley obtains an excellent supply from Mansfield Corporation and two auxiliary supplies from the Duke of Devonshire's and Mr. Verney's supplies. The two latter afford a supply to outlying places.

Ault Hucknall. Until recently only a portion of this parish has had a satisfactory supply. The Colliery Company, who own a large number of houses, have provided a supply of good water to their own property. The hamlets of Hardstoft, Astwith, and Stainsby, owned chiefly by the Duke of Devonshire, have been very inadequately supplied from local sources, but it is satisfactory to report that negotiations have been proceeding for some time past, and have ended in something being done to remedy matters.

The number of local wells in the whole District is practically negligible, and they are situated in isolated and outlying places.

Chemical analyses made of the water supplies for the whole District show that they are free from other than normal traces of readily changeable organic matter, and negative any suspicion of contamination.

Back Streets.

I have in previous reports commented on the importance of paying more attention to the condition of back streets of the District.

In many instances they afford the chief and only playground for children, and unless they are properly constructed and well drained they become a menace to health. In winter time, owing to the surface not being impervious to water, they have a tendency to become beds of mud, and in summer the dust arising from the ground is very objectionable.

These back streets form a channel through which the pails and middens are emptied, and during scavenging, however carefully this may be done, it is impossible to avoid the scattering of some foecal matter, which in summer time becomes dry and is distributed as dust. This, of course, is injurious to health.

Slaughter-Houses.

The inspection of slaughter-houses is systematically undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors. (See Sanitary Inspectors' Reports.)

Closet Accommodation.

Approximate number of houses with privy middens, 2335 ; pail closets, 4,641 ; W.C.'s, 923 ; slop-water closets, 37 ; number of privy middens converted to W.C.'s, 4 ; number of defective middens improved, 346.

Scavenging.

The scavenging of the parishes of South Normanton and Blackwell is under the direct control of the officers of the Council. That in the parishes of Pinxton, Tibshelf, Pleasley, Shirebrook, and Langwith is undertaken by contract, and in the hamlet of Doe Lea, in the parish of Ault Hucknall, it is carried out by the owners, the Staveley Coal & Iron Company.

In South Normanton and Blackwell removal is accomplished by motor transport, and in the rest of the parishes it is undertaken by horse haulage. Pending the consideration of providing a destructor, the refuse is deposited on tips. In the District 2,663 ashbins are in use, and they are emptied weekly. They replace fixed ash receptacles.

Insanitary Environment.

Pinxton.—A certain part of this parish, in close proximity to the river Erewash, is, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, in such a state as to be a menace to the health of the inhabitants, by reason of the fact that the river Erewash is considerably polluted with trade refuse from the coke ovens and bye-product works. Analyses of the water taken from the river after entering this area show it to be highly polluted with the products of tar distillation. A sample of the contents from the river bed was analysed and found to contain practically crude tar and coal washings.

Disinfecting Arrangements.

Ample provision is made for the disinfection of all articles of clothing, etc., by the establishment of two disinfecting stations, one at Shirebrook and one at South Normanton. Each contains one of Messrs. Manlove, Alliott & Co.'s high pressure steam disinfectors.

The work is done by two men specially appointed for the purpose, under the supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances. The disinfection of houses is done by the spraying of Formic Aldehyde and Jeyes' Fluid.

The workmen who undertake the duty of scavenging are provided with a supply of Izal powder for the purpose of disinfecting privies and pails after they have been emptied.

Disinfecting stations are provided in various parts of the District, where a supply of disinfectants can be obtained free of charge.

Tar-spraying for allaying dust in the principal thoroughfares is done during summer weather.

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School Buildings.

The District generally is provided with schools of modern construction, equipped with up-to-date sanitary conveniences.

There are a few schools still in existence where the lighting, heating, ventilating, and sanitary arrangements are anything but satisfactory. This applies particularly to Shirebrook Carter Lane Girls, Blackwell Church of England Mixed, Pleasley (New Houghton) Infants, and Hardstoft Mixed (Ault Hucknall).

The accommodation in the Carter Lane Girls' School, Shirebrook, is very inadequate, and there overcrowding exists.

The Pinxton Boys' School is ancient and needs demolishing. The same observation applies with equal force to the Scarscliffe Church of England School. They are both antiquated and beyond the possibility of reconstruction. They serve rather wide areas, and it is advisable that attention be directed without further delay to the condition they are in.

In winter time, owing to the want of attention on the part of some of the caretakers in seeing that the fires in the heating apparatus are properly kept up, the temperature in the early part of morning school is decidedly too low, hence the necessity of closing all the windows, which produces a stuffy atmosphere.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—The District is well supplied with milk of good quality, which is derived from farmers resident in the area, and is distributed by milkmen night and morning. No action has been taken for the sale of Tuberculous Milk under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918. This Order is in operation.

OTHER FOODS.—The following shows the amount of food voluntarily surrendered:—Corned Beef, 7lbs.; Beef, 77lbs.; Tripe, 24lbs.; Mutton, 300lbs.; Fish, 7lbs.; Ham, 204lbs.; Veal, 159lbs.; Imported Butter, 145lbs.; Rabbits, 133lbs.; Beasts' Heart and Liver, 39lbs.; Potatoes, 179lbs.; Dates, 136lbs.; Cheese, 43lbs.; Pork Pies, 18lbs.; 2 Bodies of Beef; 117 tins of Food; 1cwt. of Jam.

Special Zymotic Diseases.

TYPHOID FEVER.—One case only, which proved fatal, was notified during the year. This occurred in the parish of South Normanton, and in all probability was imported into the District. This is a reliable indication that the water supplies are good.

Facilities are afforded to the medical men of the District for bacteriological examinations when required.

SMALL POX.—This disease has, fortunately, not been present in the District during the year. Whenever contacts have been notified a careful observation has been kept by the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances. This District, like many others in England, cannot be considered to be well-vaccinated.

MEASLES.—Out of a total of 80 cases notified two only proved fatal—one at South Normanton and the other at Scarcliffe.

The fact that only 80 cases were notified, as against 560 last year, is a reasonable indication that we are coming to the end of a prolonged epidemic.

Through the distribution of literature parents have been shown the best means of preventing the spread of the disease, and of coping with cases when they arise. Measles, in itself, is not a specially fatal disease, but the complications which arise through improper nursing and want of care lead to fatal results. The compulsory notification of Measles has not been very successful on the whole in arresting the spread of the disease.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Judging from the fact that not a single death has been recorded during the year, the prevalence of this disease must have been very slight.

DIPHTHERIA.—The prevalence of Diphtheria still remains high. Twenty-five more cases than last year have been notified, viz., 125, against 100. The gradual increase of the incidence of this disease may probably be due to the facilities now afforded through the County Councils of having bacteriological examination made of swabs taken from all suspicious throats. In the past many cases have undoubtedly escaped recognition owing to their mildness of character. It is a well-known fact that the throats of many apparently

healthy school children will show the presence of the Diphtheria germ on bacteriological examination. These cases not infrequently are acting as carriers.

The death-rate from Diphtheria has been gradually on the decrease for many years, and this year is no exception. Seven deaths only have occurred.

Shirebrook and Blackwell were the two parishes where the disease was most prevalent, 53 being in the former and 29 in the latter parish. Diphtheria antitoxin is always available, free of cost, by applying to the Inspectors of Nuisances.

SCARLET FEVER.—Sixty cases of this disease were notified, as against 47 for the year previous, with only one death.

Thirty-nine cases were removed to one or other of the joint hospitals available for the District. The disease was mild in character. No return cases were notified.

SUMMER DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.—During the year 21 deaths were recorded from these diseases, as against 33 for 1918; 19 of these were under one year of age, as against 26 in 1918.

Epidemic Diarrhœa is common in overcrowded areas, and is found to prevail in rural districts where urban conditions exist. It is also more common in districts where privy middens prevail. It is comparatively rare in houses occupied by the middle and upper classes.

These diseases are due to a micro-organism gaining access to food and milk. Flies play a very important part in conveying the germ from filth of various descriptions to food within the house. Hence the danger of leaving unconsumed food about, particularly during that part of the year when Diarrhœa is prevalent.

It has been the practice of this Council to have handbills distributed throughout the whole area cautioning people as to the danger of contracting Diarrhoea, and advising them as to the best means of coping with the disease when it arises.

A staff of Health Visitors available at the time when the disease is most prevalent is a great help in visiting infected houses and instructing mothers in carrying out the advice given by the medical attendant, who ought to be called in whenever the disease occurs.

The establishment of Baby Welcomes throughout the country should eventually lead to mothers gaining a better knowledge of how a child should be fed and cared for generally.

Phthisis and other Forms of Tuberculosis.

	1919.	1918.	1917.	1916.
No. of Deaths from Phthisis	28	35	34	19
No. of Deaths from other Tubercular Diseases ...	11	19	33	34
Death-rate of Phthisis per 1,000 of population ...	0.65	0.94	0.88	0.49
Death-rate of Phthisis and Other Tubercular Diseases combined	0.90	1.45	1.7	1.37

The notified cases of Phthisis during the year was 84, as against 72 for the previous year.

Other forms of Tuberculosis 16, as against 39.

The case rate of Phthisis per 1,000 population was 1.9, whilst the case mortality per cent. was 33.3.

Age Period of Death from all forms of Tuberculosis.

			Under 5 years.	5 to 15.	15 and upwards.
Phthisis	...	...	1	4	23
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	2	0	0
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...		3	0	6
Total at all ages—39.					

Occupation of persons other than school children suffering from Phthisis in 1919:—

Males—

Miners	...	...	...	...	13
Discharged Soldiers	...	...	...	...	5
Sailor	...	...	...	...	1
Teacher	...	...	...	...	1
Insurance Agent	...	...	...	...	1
Clerk	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					22

Females—

Factory Hands	...	...	...	...	2
Music Teacher	...	...	...	...	1
Domestics	...	...	...	...	11
Shop Assistants	...	...	...	...	1
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					16

Tuberculosis in one form or another is one of the most widespread of maladies, affecting animals as well as human beings. It is perhaps more prevalent in temperate regions than in the tropics. Conditions under which individuals live appear to have more influence than climate.

Like many other infectious diseases, tuberculosis may acquire a certain degree of immunity.

Heredity certainly plays an important part in the transmission of the disease, but it is due primarily to a virus, which is contained in sputum, and through this the disease is spread.

Environment plays a most important part as a predisposing factor.

The inhabitants of cities and overcrowded areas are more prone to the disease than dwellers in the country, where fresh air and sunlight abound.

Occupation should be borne in mind when considering this disease, particularly where dust abounds and the air is rendered impure in certain manufacturing processes.

Whooping Cough and Measles are diseases, which if not properly attended, are capable of lowering the resisting power to Tuberculosis.

There are three Health Visitors in the District doing tuberculosis work.

Sanatoria are provided by an arrangement with the County Council, and Tuberculosis Dispensaries are available for outdoor treatment.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres do not appear to have lost any of their popularity during the year. There prevails an excellent spirit amongst the mothers, who, I believe, make every possible effort to attend regularly. The weather during the latter part of the year was decidedly unfavourable, and as many of the mothers live some distance from the Centres, this undoubtedly had some influence on the attendances. The infantile mortality for the year has maintained a low rate, compared with the average for the five preceding years.

The District, although rural in name, may be considered nearly urban in character. There is every reason to be satisfied that the conserving of infant life has been well maintained, especially when there is taken into consideration the scarcity of houses and consequent overcrowding, the shortage of milk, coupled with the exceptionally high prices of foods most needed for nursing mothers and young babies.

Towards the end of 1918 a fourth nurse was appointed at Shirebrook, which enabled more time to be devoted to Infant Welfare work. The Medical Officer of Health attends each meeting and personally supervises the progress of all children attending.

In my opinion, one of the weak points connected with infant welfare work in the District is the lack of facilities for the institutional treatment of children, and for such as are not making satisfactory progress.

I often think that members of the Council are not sufficiently aware of the work which has to be done in a comparatively short time at Infant Welfare Centres. It would be quite impossible for the Health Visitor to devote her time to the most important part of the work if it were not for valuable assistance rendered by the Lady Helpers.

Numbers of infants under 1 year of age and over one year and under five years, who attended each Centre during 1919:—

	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year and under 5 years.
Shirebrook	113	60
Normanton	77	25
Pinxton	86	22
Blackwell (Newton) ...	54	24
Tibshelf	53	18
Pleasley	18	14
	—	—
	401	163

Method of feeding percentage in children under nine month's:—

Parish.	Breast.	Artificial.	Mixed.
Shirebrook	54	31.9	14.1
Normanton	54.9	25.5	19.6
Pinxton	73.3	16.7	10.0
Blackwell (Newton)	69.0	24.1	6.9
Tibshelf	64.9	32.4	2.7
Pleasley	—	—	—

Total Attendances at each Centre:—

	Under 5.	1—5.	Expt. Mthrs.
Shirebrook	703	499	29
Normanton	276	121	2
Pinxton	191	179	2
Blackwell	119	94	1
Tibshelf	182	90	1
Pleasley	127	58	2
	—	—	—
	1598	1041	37
	—	—	—

Work of Health Visitors.

There are three Health Visitors employed in the District. Their duties are varied and embrace, beyond attendance at each of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, the visiting of all newly-born babies and children up to five years of age. Midwives are periodically inspected, all Tuberculosis cases visited, and assistance given at the Medical Inspection of School Children. Expectant mothers, when discovered (which is often made through the midwives), are visited, and such advice given as the case appears to merit. At the same time they are requested to attend the Welcomes for the purpose of consulting the doctor.

All still-births are systematically visited and every effort made to determine the cause, with the object of preventing a similar recurrence. The visiting of illegitimate children comes within their province for the purpose of seeing that the child is properly cared for and fed on the breast when possible, and that a supply of free milk be provided if necessary, or milk supplied at a reduced rate. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are visited at once and treated immediately until placed under a doctor's care, or sent to an Eye Institution.

The above does not represent the time devoted to the examination of verminous cases in the schools, the arranging for the treatment of Itch and minor skin complaints, the after-treatment of X-Rays, the following up of cases after medical inspection, and the visiting of children where there is reason to suspect neglect.

The work accomplished by two of the Health Visitors has been highly satisfactory, but owing to changes having taken place in the staff and the unavoidable temporary absence of Mrs. Madden, the work was considerably dislocated, although every effort was made to continue it as usual.

	Tuber- culosis Cases.	Visits Paid. Mentally Midwives Defective Inspected. Children.
No. 1 District—		
Shirebrook, Pleasley, and Langwith ...	236	49 12
No. 2 District—		
S. Normanton, Pinxton, and Scarcliffe	147	36 2
No. 3 District—		
Blackwell, Tibshelf, and Ault Hucknall	86	54 3
	—	—
	469	139 17
	—	—

Sanitary Administration.

STAFF.—There are two Inspectors of Nuisances appointed, one for the Northern area and the other for the Southern. These officers live in their respective area, and are connected up by telephone with the Medical Officer of Health. By this arrangement the closest possible touch is maintained with the routine administration of the District. It is the duty of the Inspectors to communicate with the Medical Officer of Health each morning.

For details of work, vide "Housing Appendices" Statistics for 12 months to December 31st, 1919.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—An agreement is made with the County Council for taking infectious cases into one of their Hospitals. The arrangement works admirably, as the one or other of the hospitals are so situated as to afford opportunities for immediate removal, with the least possible inconvenience to the patients.

For details of cases removed vide Table II.

Arrangements are made with the County Council for undertaking chemical and bacteriological examinations whenever required. The sputum of all cases of tuberculosis are taken by one of the three Health Visitors and submitted for bacteriological examination.

Foodstuffs, when of a suspicious nature, are likewise dealt with.

Adoptive Acts in Force.

1. At a Meeting of the Mansfield Rural Sanitary Authority, held on the 7th November, 1899, a Resolution was passed adopting the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889 (52 and 53 Vict., c., 34), within their district.
2. At a meeting of the Council, held on the 7th January, 1897, a Resolution was passed adopting the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 (53 and 54 Vict., c. 34), within their district.
3. At a meeting of the Council, held on 22nd June, 1899, a Resolution was passed adopting Part 3 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, so far as it is applicable to Rural Districts.

Regulations and Bye-Laws in Force.

1. 23rd Sept., 1879—Bye-laws were made for the whole district with respect to Common Lodging-houses, and Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, the Removal of House Refuse, and the Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits, and Cesspools.

2. 16th Feb., 1888—Regulations were made for the whole district under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, and the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885.
3. 17th Jan., 1889—Regulations were made under the Allotments Acts for the Parish of Blackwell.
4. 16th June, 1892—New Scale of Charges and Regulations were made for preventing waste, misuse, and undue consumption or contamination of the water supply.
5. 19th May, 1896—New Bye-laws were made for the whole district with respect to New Streets and Buildings, and Nuisances.
6. 24th October, 1907—Bye-laws were made for the whole district with respect to Slaughter-houses.
7. 12th March, 1908—The scale of charges and Regulations made on the 16th June, 1892, for preventing waste, misuse, and undue consumption or contamination of the water supply was rescinded as from 25th March, 1908, and a new Scale adopted and ordered to take effect in substitution thereof from such date.
8. 7th August, 1908—Bye-laws were made for the whole District with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation.
9. 16th December, 1909—Regulations were made for the whole District with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

Housing.

(1) GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

Parish.	Total Houses.	1		2		3	
		No. of Working Class Houses.	New House ^s Erected during year or in course of erection	Population.	Extent of Shortage.	(a)	(b)
Ault Hucknall	398	379		2089	66		
Blackwell	991	983		5203	173		
Glapwell	20	17		105	3		
Pinxton	1093	1067		5738	211		
Pleasley	451	413		2368	75		
Scarcliffe	647	628		3396	109		
Shirebrook	2148	1972		11277	371		
South Normanton ...	1423	1381		7471	290		
Tibshelf	807	783		4237	135		
Upper Langwith... ...	216	167		1134	36		
Totals...	8194	7790		43018	1469		

Scheme in course of preparation for erecting houses to meet the shortage.

(2) OVERCROWDING.

(1) There is overcrowding in the following parishes:—Ault Hucknall 6, Blackwell 8, Pinxton 8, Scarcliffe 1, Shirebrook 36, South Normanton 19, Tibshelf 4, Langwith 2.

(2) CAUSES.—Shortage of houses.

(3) MEASURES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED TO DEAL WITH OVERCROWDING.—Houses will be erected as quickly as possible.

(4) PRINCIPAL CASES OF OVERCROWDING DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR AND ACTION TAKEN.—It has been found impossible to deal with cases of overcrowding as there are no vacant houses in the District.

(3) FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1) (a) GENERAL STANDARD OF HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT.—It is rather better than usually found in coal mining areas.

(b) GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS.—Rising damp, defective roofs, insanitary privy middens, general defects in construction on account of the houses having been erected previous to bye-laws being in operation.

(2) ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES UNDER—
(a) Public Health Acts, (b) Housing Acts.—Notices have been served to owners to make good.

(3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness have been experienced owing to trouble in obtaining labour and material.

(4) CONDITIONS, SO FAR AS THEY AFFECT HOUSING, AS REGARDS WATER SUPPLY, CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, AND REFUSE DISPOSAL, TOGETHER WITH MEASURES TAKEN.—

The water supplies generally are good, with the exception of part of Ault Hucknall, where steps are being taken to provide an adequate supply. Privy middens and ashpits are gradually being abolished. The provision of one or more destructor is under consideration.

(4) UNHEALTHY AREAS.

A small colony of houses in Water Lane, South Normanton, constitutes practically the only unhealthy area, and a number of such houses have been closed, and the whole will be condemned when others are available.

(5) BYE-LAW RELATING TO HOUSES, ETC.

The bye-laws in operation in the District require modification and are being revised by the Council.

(6) GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

No remarks.

(7) APPENDICES.

Statistics for 12 months ended 31st December, 1919.

Herewith appended are the Reports of the two Sanitary Inspectors.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Area—13,942 acres. Estimated Number of Houses—3,880,
 New Houses erected 1919—Nil.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING—

Number of Houses Inspected (Section 17)	...	...	251
Number Unfit for Habitation	...	...	0
Representations as to Closing Orders	...	...	1
Closing Orders Made	...	...	1
Number Repaired Voluntarily	...	...	224

DRAINAGE—	Informal Notices Served.	Legal Notices Served.	Nuisances Abated.
Defective Traps, Inlets, and Drains	19	0	26
Drains Obstructed	39	0	60

CLOSETS AND ASHPITS—

Insanitary Privies, Pail Closets, and Ashpits.	153	3	310
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s	3	3	3
Defective W.C.'s	2	0	2

OTHER DEFECTS—

Paving of Yards	...	...	83	34	143
Spouting	...	...	43	56	100
Water Supply	...	...	1	0	10
Offensive Accumulations	...		6	0	6
Animals Improperly kept...			4	0	4
Overcrowding	...	...	3	0	3
Foul Condition of Houses	...		52	0	53
Notices not specified above			5	0	5
			—	—	—
			414	96	725
			—	—	—

Infected Rooms Disinfected number 298. Method, Formaline Spray.

Samples of Water Submitted for Examination—12.

Food Voluntarily Surrendered—Large quantities of all kinds.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Area—7,297 acres. Estimated Number of Houses—4,314
New Houses erected 1919—1

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING—

Number of Houses Inspected (Section 17)	...	34
Number Unfit for Habitation	...	0
Number Repaired without Closing Order	...	36
Number Repaired after Closing Order	...	0

DRAINAGE—		Informal Notices Served.	Legal Notices Served.	Nuisances Abated.
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe	... ... ...	2	2	2
Defective Traps, Inlets, and Drains	... ... ...	7	1	8
Drains Obstructed	...	14	4	14
 CLOSETS AND ASHPITS—				
Insanitary Privies, Pail Closets, and Ashpits	...	36	11	36
Additional Closet Accommo- dation	... ... ...	7	2	7
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s	... ... ...	1	0	1
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s	... ...	0	0	0
Defective Water Closets	...	15	10	15
 OTHER DEFECTS—				
Paving of Courts and Yards		19	8	19
Eaves Spouts and Down Spouts	... ... ...	38	9	38
Urinal Defective	...	1	1	1
Water Supply	... ...	3	1	3
Offensive Accumulations	...	30	5	321
Animals Improperly kept	...	1	0	1
Pig Styes	... ... ...	2	2	2
Overcrowding	... ...	2	0	2
Water in Cellars	... ...	1	0	1
Foul Condition of Houses	...	1	1	1
Nuisances not specified	...	69	8	69
		—	—	—
		249	65	541
		—	—	—

Infected Rooms Disinfected number 89. Method, Formaline Spray.

Samples Submitted for Examination—Water, 10; Milk, nil.

Food Voluntarily Surrendered—Large quantities of all kinds.

	No. on Register.	Inspections made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances Abated.
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ...	199	550	8	16
Bakehouses ...	13	122	2	1
Slaughterhouses ...	34	220	5	5
	—	—	—	—
Totals...	246	892	15	22
	—	—	—	—